

Intangible Cultural Heritage Update

News and updates on
Newfoundland and Labrador's
Intangible Cultural
Heritage Program

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Notes from the Field

By Dale Jarvis, ICH Development Officer

This is the first ICH Update newsletter after a bit of a break for the summer, but we have been busy!

We have hired on Kristine Nolte for the summer as our Doors Open coordinator, and Kristine has been busy organizing sites and arranging ICH activities to take place as part of Doors Open St. John's and Doors Open Petty Harbour. Both events will take place the last weekend of September.

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In July, the ICH office with the Centre for Music, Media and Place, Cupids 400 and the Town of Old Perlican organized a symposium on traditional dance, which was a great success and a lot of fun. You can listen to an interview with several of the dancers on the ICH blog at <http://tinyurl.com/tradNLdance>. Also in July, I was involved with the 18th Annual Conference for Storytellers of Canada-Conteurs du Canada, which was held in St. John's. As part of that event, Professor Martin Lovelace of Memorial's Folklore Department introduced the conference goers to Mrs. Alice Lannon, a traditional storyteller from Placentia Bay. Alice delighted the attendees with her stories, and gave us permission to record them. The recordings of Alice, and Dr. Lovelace's introduction, will be placed online as part of Memorial University's Digital Archives Initiative over the next few months. See Page 3 for an update on other DAI activities from our Digital Archives Initiative intern, Chris Moulund.



In August, I travelled to Port Rexton to interview Dan Snow (above), master stonemason, who has been teaching dry stone wall construction in English Harbour for the past two years. That interview was also recorded, and will also be archived on the DAI. Stay tuned! Our last bit of exciting news is that we will be hiring an ICH assistant for our office in the days to come, so expect an introductory article from that new person in the very next issue of the ICH Update!

Culture Days, September 24th -26th 2010

By Laura Bruijns, Program Coordinator

Culture is not something Newfoundlanders and Labradorians idly sit and watch—we live it, eat it and breathe it. We value it—we own it. We have all heard the economic messages about the role arts and culture plays in the generation of employment, business and industries. And those arguments are important and valid. Arts and cultural activities do contribute tremendously to the economy of Newfoundland and Canada.

But a vibrant arts and cultural sector is more than just dollars and cents. It also contributes directly to a healthy society. Our quality of life here in the province is affected by the books we write and read, the music we make and listen to, the buildings we build and live in, and the art we make and enjoy in our homes and public spaces.

That's why a group of volunteers inspired by the 13 years of success of Journées de la Culture in Quebec is taking time to celebrate its importance to our lives. So during the weekend of September 24-26 we'll join the entire country in inviting our communities to join in and celebrate Culture Days. It will be the largest collective public participation campaign undertaken by the arts and cultural community in Canada ever. Think ParticipAction for the Arts – with no running shoes!

Anything that brings creators and the public closer together is possible during Culture Days. It could be a museum opening its restoration workshop to the public, a local theatre inviting visitors to a dress

rehearsal, an architect or a historian organizing a guided tour of the neighbourhood, choreographers offering a dance class, a book store or library hosting a meet the writer event.

Professional, amateur, educational, heritage and community-based arts and cultural organizations, as well as individual artists, musicians, dancers and storytellers have all been invited to the party. We have reached out to municipalities in major centers and in the smaller communities in Newfoundland and Labrador to let them know they are welcome and encouraged to be part of Culture Days.

Right now we have a fantastic list of events happening across our province and more are coming on every day. You'll be able to take part in the painting of a cultural healing mural at the Charles J Andrew Treatment Centre in Sheshatshui, hear seniors relating their stories of logging and fishing long ago in Hawkes Bay and enjoy a multicultural expo at the Rooms in St. John's. In the Exploits Valley, The Economic Development Corporation will be creating a giant tile mural built with contributions from across their diverse community then celebrating with a festival of music and dance.

Dancers will be whirling and jigging, poets will challenge audiences to create 'crowd sourced' poetry. Rugs will be hooked – there will be quilting, crafting, playwriting, films – it is all on the go and all free the weekend of September 24-26.

For more information, or to register your own event, check out www.culturedays.ca or call Laura at 709-738-4337



Sound Traditions

By Eric West

This fall there will be a new music and dance retreat in Central Newfoundland. Entitled Sound Traditions, this workshop for adults will take place at the Lion Max Simms Memorial Camp in Bishop Falls, October 3-9. The retreat will offer workshops in traditional music and dance, with instruction in accordion, guitar, fiddle, tin whistle, banjo, bodhran, harp and mandolin. We employ some of the top professional musicians and instructors in the province, including Jean Hewson, Christina Smith, Daniel Payne, and Dave Panting. You can register and pay online with Memorial University's Lifelong Learning, Soundbone's partner for this venture.

For further information please visit the website or contact Eric West at the address below.

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What's New with the Digital Archives Initiative (DAI)

By Chris Mouland, DAI Intern

In partnership with Memorial University's Digital Archives Initiative, the ICH office will soon be sharing a considerable amount of cultural material. Due to technical difficulties with our uploading software, we have not been able to post material to our various DAI collections. These difficulties will soon be addressed and we can get back to business as usual.

The first project that will be completed is the second group of David Taylor Boatbuilding Audio Tapes. This collection was in the process of being uploaded when our computer software went down. There are still several interviews with Newfoundland boat builders to be uploaded, and like the others, they highlight the knowledge, skills and lifestyle of hardworking Newfoundland men.

There are also three more collections of audio recordings that are in the process of digitization for the DAI. The Mark Ferguson Collection is a series of interviews focusing primarily on salt fish. This style of fish processing represents a major contribution to the history of the Newfoundland fishery, and the lifestyle of Newfoundland fishers.



Other audio collections we are working on include the Torbay and Norris Arm Collections. Both of these collections are comprised mainly of interviews with community seniors, and focus on the history of their communities. From tidal waves to buried treasure, these interviews provide many interesting stories which contribute to Newfoundland's community profiles.

Finally, we are also in possession of an extensive photo collection highlighting hooked rugs of Newfoundland. When these photos are uploaded one will be provided with hundreds of examples of the artistic expression of Newfoundland culture.

From the Divine to the Disgusting - Doors Open 2010 Sites Announced

By Kristine Nolte, Doors Open Coordinator

Doors Open 2010 events are already underway in communities in Newfoundland. Doors Open events are community-wide, open-house events which provide the public access to architecturally, historically, culturally-significant, and interesting locations free of charge. These places may be those which normally charge fees, or which are not usually open to the public. Doors Open provides an opportunity for you to see “behind the scenes” of locations in your community.

The first Doors Open Day (La Journée Ports Ouvertes) took place in France in 1984. The idea soon spread to neighbouring countries and by 1998 nineteen million people had visited some 28 000 sites in forty-four countries. Doors Open arrived in Canada in 2000. Newfoundland became the first Atlantic Province to host a Doors Open event in 2003, and events have been

happening every year in communities around the province since. Doors Open Bay Roberts and Placentia have already happened, but look for events in Trinity Bight (September 18th & 19th), St. John's, and Petty Harbour (both taking place September 25th & 26th). For full listings of all the participating locations and other details, visit www.doorsopendays.com.

St. John's

Doors Open St. John's is partnering this year with Culture Days, a Canada-wide celebration of arts and culture (www.culturedays.ca). Presenting these events together means an amazing array of events in the province's capital. St. John's is

bringing you old favourites plus new locations to explore. One of our most exciting new sites is the Robin Hood Bay Waste Management Facility. They will be offering bus tours of the dump allowing you to see in disgusting detail how your waste is managed, recycled, processed, and stored. They will be highlighting many of the upgrades that make this a modern and environmentally sound waste management facility. At other events you will be able to take a Punjabi lesson at the Sikh Gurdwara, listen to the choir at the George Street United Church, participate in research at the LSPU Hall, spin the antique lottery wheel at the Royal St. John's Regatta Museum (and maybe win a prize!), see 3-dimensional screen prints at the Eastern Edge Gallery, sample the food at the St. John's Mosque, and a whole lot more.

Petty Harbour

We are very excited this year to present the first ever Doors Open Petty Harbour. The community has jumped on board with us in putting it together. The Petty Harbour Hydroelectric Plant is over a century old and normally closed to the public. As they are currently undergoing renovations, they are able to safely offer tours of the historic facility. Have tea at Chafe's Landing, the oldest building in Petty Harbour, and listen to some stories. Visit Herbie's Old Shoppe, originally the general store for the community and now specializing in Newfoundland crafts, music, books, and artwork. All the Petty Harbour events are highlighted on our website.

